General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.90 and Add.1)*]

55/280. United Nations Electoral Observer Mission for the general elections in Fiji in August 2001

The General Assembly,

Noting the request of the caretaker Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands to the Secretary-General for the participation of the United Nations in the observation of the general elections in Fiji,[1]

Recalling its resolution 54/173 of 17 December 1999 on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,

Noting with satisfaction that increasing numbers of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of national decision-making and confidence-building, thereby contributing to greater national peace and stability,

Taking note of the letter dated 31 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, addressed to the Secretary-General,[2] which transmitted the communiqué of the thirty-first meeting of the Forum, held at Tarawa from 27 to 30 October 2000, and recognizing and endorsing the need to address the fundamental causes of political instability in the region,

Taking into account the positive impact on the regional promotion of democracy, peace and well-being that a stable democracy in Fiji will provide,

Taking note of the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Sugar of the caretaker Government addressed to the President of the General Assembly,[3] which registers the commitment of the caretaker Government to return Fiji to a full constitutional democracy through free and fair elections and invites the United Nations to observe the elections,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[4] which provides that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly

[1] See A/55/1016, annex I.
[2] A/55/536.
[3] A/55/1016, annex II.
[4] Resolution 217 A (III).

or through freely chosen representatives, that everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his or her country, that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of the government and that this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Taking into account the requested assistance provided by the United Nations in 1995, supporting the revision of the 1990 Constitution of Fiji leading to the promulgation of the Constitution Amendment Act 1997 of the Republic of the Fiji Islands,

Recalling that the verification of free and fair elections should cover the entire time span of the electoral process, and noting that assistance by the United Nations to Member States should continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting countries,

Recognizing existing time constraints, which allow the Organization to observe only the election environment, polling, counting, computation of results, complaints and resolution mechanisms, the announcement of results and the post-election acceptance of results,

Welcoming the early exercise of free and fair elections by the caretaker Government seeking to reinstate constitutional democracy,

1. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission to monitor the general elections in Fiji and the immediate post-election environment;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange, as soon as possible, for the deployment of the Electoral Observer Mission so that it may commence its monitoring functions;

3. *Calls upon* the authorities directly concerned to extend their fullest cooperation to the Electoral Observer Mission in order to facilitate the accomplishment of its task, as requested by the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the agenda item entitled, "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

109th plenary meeting
25 July 2001